DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 119 636 IR 003 097

TITLE	Meeting of the Bureau (Luxembourg, 19-20 November 1975).
INSTITUTION	Council for Cultural Cooperation, Strasbourg (France). Ad Hoc Committee for Educational Documentation and Information.
REPORT NO	DECS-DOC-75-32
PUB DATE	1 Dec 75
NOTE	9p.; Not available in hard copy due to marginal reproducibility of original document
EDRS PRICE	MF-$0.83 Plus Postage. HC Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	*Conference Reports; Educational Research; Information Systems; *International Organizations
IDENTIFIERS	EUDISED

ABSTRACT

In November of 1975, members of the Committee for Educational Documentation and Information of the Council of Europe met with a group of editors of national surveys on educational research and development to review the status of: (1) the EUDISED (European Documentation and Information System for Education) format and standards; (2) a scientific periodicals collection; (3) audiovisual experiments; (4) a survey of the sources of educational information; (5) terminology used to describe national educational institutions and its relationship to the EUDISED thesaurus; and (6) a study on the provision of subject data to the EUDISED records. Also, the technical difficulties posed by a central data bank were discussed, and future meetings were planned. This document gives a brief overview of the meeting. (FMH)

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ED119636

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 1 December 1975

DECS/Doc (75) 32
Cr. Engl.

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COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL CO-OPERATION

COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATIONAL DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION

Meeting of the Bureau
Luxembourg, 19-20 November 1975

REPORT

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

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Participants and agenda

1. Members of the Bureau of the Committee for Educational Documentation and Information participated in the meeting of the editors of national surveys of educational research in Luxembourg on 18-19 (morning) November 1975 and held a separate meeting on 19 (afternoon) and 20 (morning). The Commission of the European Communities was represented at the Bureau meeting by staff members of DG XII and DG XIII and by its consultant, Mr. C. J. Tucker, London. The meeting was chaired by Mr. B. Gran, Malmö, Sweden. The list of participants is given in Appendix I and the agenda in Appendix II.

Meeting of the Working Party on EUDISED Format and Standards

2. Re-examining the preceding meeting of the editors, the Bureau expressed its satisfaction with the results which could be expected to lead to the establishment of EUDISED R & D in 1976. The Bureau examined in particular the request by the meeting to provide for meetings of the Working Party on EUDISED Format and Standards with representatives of computer-based services participating in EUDISED activities to solve in the first instance the problem of transforming national tapes to meet EUDISED requirements (see report DECS/Rech (75) 57, para. 9). It was decided that the following persons should be invited by the Secretariat to participate in the first meeting to be held in February in Paris under the chairmanship of Mr. J. Linford, London:

- members of the Working Party: France: Mr. J. Viet, Paris; Federal Republic of Germany: Mr. R. Bernhardt, Frankfurt; Sweden: Mr. B. Gran, Malmö; United Kingdom: Mr. L. A. Gilbert, London;

- representatives of national services: Austria: Mr. H. Schwanda, Vienna; Federal Republic of Germany: Mr. R. Marczinski, Munich and Mr. K. Spangenberg, Berlin; Switzerland: Mr. A. Gretler, Aargau.

The Commission of the European Communities should be invited to be represented at all meetings. The Bureau took note of the draft agenda prepared by Mr. Linford for the first meeting. The Secretariat was requested to provide for a second meeting of the group in the course of 1976. /NB: First meeting, Paris, Council of Europe Office, 11-12 February 1976./

Reports on the present state of the EUDISED-SP and -AV experiments

3. As Mr. Viet was prevented from attending the meeting, the report on the EUDISED scientific periodicals (SP) experiment (see document DECS/Doc (75) 29) was presented by the Secretariat. Mr. Gilbert commented on the report on the present state of the EUDISED audio-visual (AV) experiment (see document DECS/Doc (75) 31). After discussing the reports, the Bureau recommended that the results of each experiment be published in 1976 in experimental EUDISED bulletins, each with an introduction by the consultant who had guided the experiment.

1975 survey of sources of educational information

4. The Secretariat reported on the difficulties that had arisen. Replies to the 1974 questionnaire (see document DECS/Doc (74) 17 rev.) should have reached the Secretariat by 1 July 1975. To date, replies from only eight of the twenty-one countries concerned had been received, and some of the replies did not cover the whole field. It was, therefore, doubtful whether the survey could be carried out and published as envisaged. The Bureau regretted that these difficulties had arisen and recommended that the Secretariat should in the meantime publish the replies obtained as documents. The publication of a formal survey would obviously depend on whether further replies were received. The Secretariat should report on the matter to the next meeting of the Committee for Educational Documentation and Information.

EUDISED R & D thesaurus and terminology of national educational institutions

5. As announced at the previous Bureau meeting on 3-4 July 1975, (see report DECS/Doc (75) 20, para. 9), Mr. K. Spangenberg submitted two documents in which he had related the terms used for national educational institutions to descriptors of the EUDISED thesaurus. He stated that there were for each country on average some 30-40 terms concerning national educational institutions which needed to be linked to the thesaurus. These terms should ideally be contained in a companion volume to the thesaurus, the companion volume to be updated regularly in co-operation with the national authorities. He was of the opinion that national terms concerning names of committees, councils, etc. and titles of teachers, inspectors, etc. could be omitted from the companion volume. The Bureau thanked Mr. Spangenberg for his initiative and, after having discussed the matter, recommended to examine first, prior to any further decision, the forthcoming new

edition of "School systems - a guide" which would contain national terminology and would be edited by Professor C. De Keyser, Louvain University, who had taken an active part in the preparation of the national terminology lists.

Study on "The provision of subject data on EUDISED records"

6. Mr. Linford, as agreed at the previous Bureau meeting (see report DECS/Doc (75) 20, para. 10) submitted a study by Mr. J. Digger on "The provision of subject data on EUDISED records", a paper prepared in the Subject Systems Office of the British Library's Bibliographical Services Division. The Bureau thanked Mr. Linford for this contribution and requested the Secretariat to circulate the study in English, and if possible also in a French version, to all Bureau members who should send their comments on the content to the Secretariat by 1 February 1976. These comments should be communicated to all Bureau members and the matter be discussed further at the next Bureau meeting, in particular with a view to examining whether a seminar on these problems could be organised.

Next annual meeting of the Committee for Educational Documentation and Information

7. The Secretariat reported that the results of the various EUDISED activities at present being undertaken or in preparation would only be available in published form in late summer or autumn 1976. The annual meeting of the Committee, whose main task was to review these activities, could, therefore, not be held before late 1976. As the financial provisions for the present activities to be covered under the 1976 budget were already rather considerable, the Secretariat requested the Bureau's guidance on whether it would not be preferable to hold the next meeting of the Committee, for budgetary reasons, in early 1977. The Bureau recommended to postpone the next meeting of the Committee until that period.

Technical co-operation with the European Communities

8. The morning session of 20 November was entirely devoted to the problems of technical co-operation with the European Communities. Mr. J. Gibb, DG XIII, introduced the discussion by a general statement on the present situation concerning the EUDISED project, mention of which was made in the draft resolution prepared for the Conference of Education Ministers of the European Communities on 10 December 1975. Mr. C. Tucker, consultant to the Commission, outlined the approaches

which he intended to follow in preparing the study on systems design specifications for the centralised operations of the EUDISED system which he had been asked by the Commission to complete by 21 July 1976. The matter was discussed in great detail. The Bureau approved in principle the generalised approach to software development as advocated by Mr. Tucker. It insisted at the same time on the necessity to solve in 1976, or at least by mid-1977, the immediate problems of transforming national tapes to meet EUDISED requirements and referred in this connection to the preceding meeting with the editors who had underlined the importance of these problems (see report DECS/Rech (75) 57, para. 9). The Bureau recommended that:

- Mr. Tucker should visit in January 1976 at the Council of Europe's expense the national agencies in Aargau, Munich, Vienna and Berlin to gain firsthand experience of the problems involved;

- he should attend the meeting of the Working Party on EUDISED Format and Standards on 11-12 February 1976 in Paris as observer of the Commission of the European Communities and discuss matters on this occasion also with Mr. J. Viet, Paris, the Council of Europe's consultant for the EUDISED project, and that

- he should address himself to the Secretariat whenever he needed further information on EUDISED activities; such requests should, if the Secretariat could not answer them, be passed on to the members of the Bureau.

Finally, Mr. Gibb announced that the Commission would soon approach the Council of Europe with the view to formalising co-operation in the EUDISED project.

Next meeting of the Bureau and regional meetings to be convened by Bureau members

9. The next Bureau meeting will be held on 26 (afternoon) and 27 (morning) May 1976 in connection with the next meeting of the editors on 25-26 (morning) May in Strasbourg. In this connection it was stressed that it was necessary to co-ordinate EUDISED activities at the regional level, in particular in the German-speaking countries (Austria, Federal Republic of Germany and German-speaking cantons of Switzerland) and in those Scandinavian countries which participated in the EUDISED project (Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden). The Bureau suggested that its members, Messrs. Spangenberg and Gran, should convene co-ordination meetings, after having contacted the Secretariat, in the first half of 1976.

The meeting, which had begun on 19 November 1975 at 2.30 pm, concluded on 20 November 1975 at 12.30 pm.

APPENDIX I / ANNEXE I

Meeting of the Bureau/Réunion du Bureau
Luxembourg, 20/XI/75
List of Participants/Liste des Participants

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Mr. M.J. TYERMAN
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APPENDIX II

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda

2. Review of preceding meeting of the editors of national surveys of educational research on 18 and 19 November

3. Co-ordination of activities under the EUDISED work programme 1975/76

   3.1 Report by Mr. J. Viet on the abstracting of articles in scientific periodicals specialising in education (see document DECS/Doc (75) 29)

   3.2 Report by Mr. L.A. Gilbert on the exchange of information on audiovisual teaching aids (see document DECS/Doc (75) 31)

4. 1975 Survey of sources of educational information

5. EUDISED thesaurus and terminology of national educational institutions

6. Study on "The provision of subject data on EUDISED records"

7. Next annual meeting of the Committee for Educational Documentation and Information

8. Technical co-operation with the European Communities

9. Date and place of next meeting of the Bureau and of regional meetings to be convened by Bureau members

10. Any other business